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BPOM Issues New Regulations on Transgenic Products

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Biotechnology and Other New Production

Technologies

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Report Highlights:

Indonesia's National Agency for Drug and Food Control (BPOM) recently issued two regulations on food safety assessment guidelines for transgenic products and on food labeling controls for transgenic products.

General Information:

On March 7, 2012 the head of BPOM, Ms. Lucky Oemar Said, signed Regulation [No. HK.03.1.23.03.12.1563/2012](#) on food safety assessment for transgenic products. This new regulation replaces the BPOM's 2008 regulation No. HK.00.05.23.541.

The new regulation simplifies the procedures of the application for the safety assessment of transgenic products. The new regulation requires that applicants send the food safety assessment application only to the Head of BPOM regardless the transgenic material's origins, to include material from transgenic animal, fish, plant, or microorganisms. Previously, applicants were required to submit numerous written applications to different ministries. For example, importers of fresh foods derived from transgenic plants and/or animals were required to submit their applications to the Minister of Agriculture, and copy the Head of BPOM. As mentioned, the new regulation requires local producers, as well as importers of transgenic products must submit their applications exclusively to the Head of BPOM. The new regulation also states that the final decision on food safety for any transgenic products, regardless of whether the product is fresh or processed, will be regulated by BPOM.

On the same date, Ms. Said also signed an additional regulation, [No. HK.03.1.23.03.12.1564/ 2012](#), on food labeling requirements for transgenic products. According to this regulation, the packaged food that contains at least 5 percent of transgenic product must be labeled and stated "Food Containing Genetically Modified Material" on the label.

Unofficial translations of both regulations are available in the links above.